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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

March 31, 2023

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The Honorable Kay Granger The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Chairwoman Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the North Country Shared Equity Housing in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is AHEAD: Affordable Housing Education and Development located at 262 Cottage Street, Suite 127, Littleton, NH 03561.

The funding will be used to build 12 affordable single-family homes in Northern New Hampshire. This project is a valuable use of taxpayers' funds because it will help address the housing shortage in New Hampshire's North Country. New Hampshire's North Country is known for great skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. Because of these outdoor activities, many families want to buy second homes in New Hampshire or move to the region to work remotely. While we welcome these new residents, they have fundamentally shifted the housing market in the region. New residents can pay top dollar for houses, pricing out long-time residents. Exacerbating matters, the majority of homes built in the North Country are designed and priced as second, vacation, or luxury homes. As a result, affordable housing is a major challenge in this region. The lack of affordable housing has negatively impacted the local economy because businesses are not able to recruit and retain the workers. By creating new workforce housing, AHEAD's development will expand housing options for low-wage and middle-income earners. This project is supported by a wide variety of local stakeholders, including many local small businesses, because it will help address the acute need for workforce housing in the region.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Ann McLane Kuster

Member of Congress